The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the facts of trial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 25, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 13, 1918

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1899 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 35

Business Interests Rap Hartley For Loose Talk

New York City.—Even Big Business cannot stomach all the tripe dished up by Representative Fred A. Hartley, chief of the anti-labor bloc in the House.

Reporting on his statements to the effect that management would be held responsible, along with labor, for attempts to evade the Taft-Hartley law's restrictive provisions against the conduct of labor-management relations, the "Wall Street Journal," a mouthpiece of business and finance, gave him a some spanking they have to digest.

In a front page article, the paper pointed out that the agreements which annoyed Hartley are "mutually acceptable contracts," whereby unions assume full responsibility for acts authorized by them and employers agree not to seek damages for acts of individual employes "which are beyond union control."

Then in bold face type, it rapped Hartley's contention that such agreements violate the new law and his threat to call in the parties to Washington to "explain."

"This is idle talk," the paper declared. "It cannot have been the intent of Congress to punish men or organizations for acts they neither authorized nor instigated, unless there was a showing that they in good faith attempted to prevent.

"It is inconceivable that the courts would find illegal the give-and-take efforts of employers and unions to maintain peace in industry.

"Not even the Taft-Hartley law can compel an employer to resort to the legal remedies open to him if he thinks he sees a more pacific way of promoting his interests."

Another indictment of Hartley came from the Washington "Post," owned by a multi-millionaire banker.

"Abusive language and threats of this kind are calculated to stiffen opposition to the law by strengthening the conviction of labor leaders that it was framed with the deliberate intention of undermining unions," the paper pointed out.

Cohen Scheme to Use DPs at Quoddy Exposed As Slave Labor Proposal

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor was record as strongly opposing the scheme of Thurman Arnold Cohen to purchase through the city of Eastport, Me., the facilities of Passamoonoddy Project for the purpose of operating a training school for displaced persons and veterans.

Cohen offered to buy the surplus Government real estate for the city of Eastport if he was permitted to operate an industrial establishment to assemble tractors. Under his plan, displaced persons would be employed there without wages for a 6-month training period, they would be stripped of the Booth Activities, presumably to be utilized in some of the Cohen interests there.

The War Assets Administration released a statement on the proposal prepared by the agency's Labor Policy Committee, of which Boris Shishkin, AFL Economist, is a member. The statement flatly rejected the Cohen formula" as a disguised measure to make use of the slave labor of displaced persons without any protection of their human rights.

The committee indicated that it would approve the use of the Quoddy Project for educational or training purposes, but only with the guarantee of the following safeguards:

1. That the training and employment of the project will be made available only to persons who have the right to enter and remain in the United States, including veterans, without any discrimination or distinction or emphasis as to race, color or creed.

2. That the project will be operated on a genuine "training within industry" plan, approved and guided by the U. S. Office of Education, wherein not less than 50 percent of the man hours in production will be devoted to training and learning.

3. That all displaced persons who participate in training plan or employment be regular immigrants under the quota with their own choice without servitude or prior agreements and with the right to full freedom and opportunities accorded any other immigrants.

4. That all persons working on project under this plan shall be paid the local prevailing rates of pay applicable to their work, without wage deductions or other charges, except as provided for by law.

"Congress did not lift a finger to halt the advancing tide of prices. It even encouraged higher prices by authorizing the export-control bill which is bound to force rents up by 15 percent in many parts of the country."

The scheme and the shortage offer another example of how the Republican leaders in Congress have disregarded the popular will whenever it conflicts with the wishes of the reactionary GOP Taft, the real leader of the Republican Congress, lent his name to the bill, he didn't lift a finger to advance its passage. Perhaps it is only a coincidence that the power and state lobby bitterly opposed the bill. But it should make the American people wonder about Senator Taft."

The GOP record on social security was also assailed by Mr. Meany. He pointed to the present bi-partisan planning of benefits provided by law and urged the lifting of benefits paid to compensate for the increased living costs.

"Legislation to bring these changes about has been lying on the congressional shelf for more than a year and the Republican leaders have deliberately blocked it," Mr. Meany declared.

"They are also responsible for blocking a new proposed feature of social security which is of vital importance to the American people. This is health insurance because the purpose of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill is really insurance against the cost of medical care.

"These costs are huge today and many people cannot afford to get the proper care except at ruinous expense. No private insurance company, or combination of them, is big enough to swing an insurance policy covering all the health hazards. That is the Government's responsibility.

"Even Senator Taft publicly acknowledged the need for action in this field, but instead of supporting an honest and constructive measure like the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, he sabotaged it and offered a substitute which makes insurance against the cost of medical care optional. It is not insurance against medical care, under his bill, the citizen would have to swear he had no money to pay a doctor.

"That isn't what the American people want. They want insurance on which they can rely for regular premiums from industry, so that they would be entitled to the best medical care as a matter of paid-up right when they needed it."

The Republican leadership failed the American people on yet another score, Mr. Meany declared. That failure is the refusal of the GOP to push an increase in the minimum wage level, Mr. Meany said. Now at the pitifully low figure of 40 cents an hour, millions of low-paid workers' wages were allowed to die, he said.

In the discussion of labor, Mr. Meany said that all of the GOP actions were clear symptoms of a basic attitude toward labor by the Republican congressional leadership, an overbearing, hostile attitude which the workers of this country will not soon forget.

AFL's Office Employes Union Files Non-Communist Affidavits With NLRB

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Office Employes International Union filed the non-Communist affidavit forms required by the Taft-Hartley law with the National Labor Relations Board.

Paul R. Hutchings, president of the union, said the action was taken "because such filing is now a prerequisite to the use of the NLRB's services by our international union and its 200 local unions, which may in process cases find it necessary to process cases through the board."

He stated that the international union "does not desire to impede in any way any use of the board's services by our local unions," Mr. Hutchings declared emphatically.

"This action on the part of our international officers does not in any sense constitute an endorsement of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act by our international union or any of its officers. We oppose that enactment of this vicious statute with all the power at our command."

To emphasize the fact that the OEIU has always opposed Communism, the Communist party, Mr. Hutchings pointed out, has long carried in its constitution a clause forbidding membership to any person "who advocates principles or lends support to organizations or movements which espouses and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established governments of the United States and Canada."

The union's executive board has interpreted this clause to include especially "membership in the Communist party and the execution of affidavits to membership or at any time thereafter," Mr. Hutchings declared.

Locals of the OEIU are being supplied with copies of the required affidavits so that compliance with the law can be facilitated without delay, Mr. Hutchings said.

This action taken by the union marks the second time the union has acted promptly in fulfilling the requirements of the Taft-Hartley law. The union was the first to file financial reports as a result of the Taft-Hartley laws with the Labor Department as under the old law.

AFL DISTILLERY WORKERS GET BENEFICIAL CONTRACT

New York City.—The AFL's Distillery Workers announced the successful negotiation of a new benefit contract with the Joseph E. Seagram & Sons distilleries. More than 4,400 union members are affected under the agreement.

John E. McKiernan, union vice-president, said the union gained a clear cut victory on all points at issue during the period of negotiations.

Under the terms of the contract union members receive wage increases ranging from 7 to 17½ cents an hour, and participation in a health and welfare plan financed entirely by company and administered jointly by the union and the company.

The union has locals in Seagram plants located in Louisville, Ky., Lawrenceburg, Ind., Bristol, Pa., and Baltimore and Relay, Md.

BACK WAGE CLAIMS STATUS CLARIFIED BY LABOR DEPT.

Washington, D. C.—The Department of Labor has issued clarifications concerning the effect of the two-year Federal statute of limitations provision of the Portal-to-Portal Act upon claims for back wages arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The clarifications by the announcement permissible claims under the Portal-to-Portal Act which arose before May 14, 1947, shall be governed by the prevailing state statute of limitations, provided suit is started on or before December 1, 1947, and after that date, will be governed by the shorter of either the state statute or the act's two-year statute of limitations.

Claims for back wages arising out of after May 14, 1947, are governed by the two-year statute of limitations, the statement said. State statutes, whether longer or shorter than the Federal limitation period, do not apply to such claims, according to the Labor Department.

IBEW IS BARGAINING AGENT

Elgin, Ill.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local B-1031, received certification from the National Labor Relations Board to act as collective bargaining agent for nearly 700 employes in the production and maintenance department in a plant here owned by the Majestic Radio and Television Corporation.

Green Predicts 'Slave' Law Repeal, Defeat of Foes Meany Flays GOP As 'Instrument' of Big Business

AFL Leader Accuses Republican Leadership Of Hostile, Overbearing Attitude Toward Organized Labor

For Release September 3:

Washington, D. C.—The Republican leadership in Congress is the most hostile and political instrument of big business.

George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, made this charge in the AFL's radio program "Labor, Look and Act." Mr. Meany, substituting for Bill Stoppler of the American Broadcasting Company staff, answered some pointed questions on the outlook for labor in this country.

Mr. Meany's blast at the GOP raises a policy question for consideration by the AFL Executive Council at its forthcoming meeting in Chicago on Sept. 8th. The Council is expected to prepare a program of political action for the AFL during the coming election year. Any plan adopted by the Executive Council will be submitted to the AFL convention to be held in San Francisco in October.

In support of his charge against the Republican leadership in Congress, Mr. Meany offered ample evidence. He declared that the opposition bill which is bound to force rents up by 15 percent in many parts of the country."

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Labor on Side of Veteran, Says Green: Pledges AFL Fight for Social Measures

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared that organized labor is on the side of the veteran and pledged that it "will not shirk any opportunity to be of service to the veteran in the years ahead."

This was the opening of a special Labor Day message to veterans delivered by Mr. Green on a Veterans Administration radio program broadcast over the nation-wide network of the Mutual Broadcasting Company.

"Already the American Federation of Labor has given concrete proof of its interest in the veteran," Mr. Green asserted. "When the war was on, our members broke all production records to supply the armed forces with the implements they so badly needed for fighting equipment. When the war ended and the veterans returned home, our unions gladly did everything in their power to help them get good jobs in private industry."

Mr. Green said the millions of veterans now holding union membership have discovered that their unions are fighting to protect their interests and he says he is sure that they, as paid vacations, prom stions, and other benefits bending good working conditions and fair pay."

"Today, the building trades alone there are more than 85,000 veterans serving as apprentices under collective bargaining agreements which assure them of good, steady jobs in the years to come.

Mr. Green recited recent official figures reporting that 750,000 veterans are unemployed.

"That is a shockingly high figure," he said, "especially at a time when the nation as a whole is enjoying comparatively high employment. But we cannot sit back and talk enough of full employment when so many veterans and an additional two million civilian workers are without jobs in industry.

"For this reason, the American Federation of Labor will redouble its efforts to bring about an effective full employment program which will mean what it says to every worker, whether veteran or not, in the form of real welfare and security of veterans will be the national economy and safe defense. We certainly cannot afford the risk of letting mass unemployment and another depression, nor can we afford the loss of productive labor of so many of our citizens when there is a shortage of labor in almost every American way of life.

"The acute housing shortage stands first on the list of immediate and long-range problems requiring effective national solution.

"The American Federation of Labor will again urge Congress to enact the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill to bring about the construction of 15 million new homes in the next 15 years.

"I want the veterans to know that the AFL has supported every progressive move in Congress to advance their legitimate rights and will continue to do so in the future.

"In addition, we are fighting for broader social security, for health insurance and for a higher minimum wage, measures necessary to protect the national economy and safeguard you.

"We also favor a broad national defense program including intelligent safeguards against subversive forces. Above all, we will do all we can to earnestly behind the efforts of our Government to bring about world peace and to remove the dread of future war from our own and later generations."

F. D. ROOSEVELT, JR. NAMED LAWYER BY UPHOLSTERERS

Philadelphia.—The AFL's Upholsterers International Union announced the appointment of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., son of the the late President, as attorney for the union.

BRITISH LABOR CONGRESS CABLES LABOR MESSAGE

New York City.—The Jewish Labor Committee announced the receipt of the following Labor Day message from Vincent Tewson, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress:

"On the eve of our annual Trades Union Congress I send greetings to American workers celebrating their national holiday on the day our Congress begins.

"British trade unionists are fully aware of the difficulties in setting American unions and organized labor under the repressive legislation recently enacted by Congress—the fruitless goodwill shown by American labor in the hope of securing economic difficulty affecting our two countries. Such controversial problems must be allowed to undermine that goodwill existing between the trade unionists of America and Britain."

Tribute Is Paid to Women Workers

Washington, D. C.—Women workers, who comprise 29 percent of the labor force, "have become a big major part in the business and economic life of the nation."

This fact was stressed in a special Labor Day tribute to the women in the labor force, issued by Mrs. Ruth Miller, Director, Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, in which she said:

"On this Labor Day, as on such occasions in the past, we recognize that women are performing services that are neither incidental nor casual. They are services which closely affect the lives every one of us, as is attested to by the fact that women form almost 29 percent of the nation's employed persons, and the great majority of workers in a number of occupations.

Without women, our schools, hospitals, and medical laboratories would be greatly understaffed if not actually incapacitated, for women form 75 percent of all teachers, almost 99 percent of the professional nurses, 90 percent of the medical laboratory technicians. They are also the backbone of the doctors. Without a labor force of women, the whole business life of America also would be in pitiful confusion. Women form more than 93 percent of all secretaries and stenographers.

Mrs. Miller stressed the problems which women face in order to retain the gains made during wartime when their services were urgently sought in the battle of production. While women have lost some of the widespread unemployment since V-J Day, many of them have also found it hard to remunerate with their real capabilities or their war-acquired skills, she said.

Looking into the future, the Labor Department spokesman asserted:

"Many employed women, at this particular time, are clearly asking, first that the American public will become more conscious of the need for implementing equal-pay and minimum-wage provisions, so that these programs are closely allied to women's full participation in the working world, both must receive their impetus from the full employment in the well-being of working women."

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PRAISES TRADE UNIONS

New York City.—The National Urban League, in a statement marking its behalf of Negro citizens, extended "the full cooperation" of the Federation of Labor on the occasion of Labor Day.

In a letter to AFL President William Green, Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the League, expressed appreciation of AFL assistance they rendered the League and paid tribute to the unanimous achievement and continuing effort of organized labor to help eliminate racial discrimination.

Citing the organization of Negroes by the Negro in the housing crisis and on the general economic front, Mr. Granger said:

"We have always considered democratic trade unions as strong allies in our work to eliminate discrimination and barriers to equal opportunity for Negroes."

254,000 WORKERS OVER 65 REPORTED IN N. Y. STATE

Albany, N. Y.—Senator Thomas C. Desmond, Newburgh Republican, reported that 254,000 men and women 65 or older are now employed in New York State. He said this represented an increase of 81 percent since 1940.

Senator Desmond, who is chairman of the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Problems of the Aging, revealed that his committee had discovered that 90 percent of persons in this age group able and willing to work had obtained positions.

AFL President Says Labor Fights Oppression In Drive for Freedom and Security For All Americans

Chicago.—In a fighting speech keynoting the nation's celebration of Labor Day, AFL President William Green predicted the eventual repeal of the infamous Taft-Hartley law and the political defeat of its supporters.

Mr. Green spoke to a vast throng gathered in Soldier Field for a mammoth celebration sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor. His address, delivered to the estimated audience of 100,000 union members and their families, was carried over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Company to additional millions of listeners.

Introduced by William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the AFL chief was accorded a tremendous ovation by the throng gathered for an afternoon of festivity and entertainment. His address was constantly interrupted by applause as he recited the achievements of labor and expressed its determination to fight the forces hoping to crucify the labor movement.

"Today, labor is rallying its forces to fight against oppression and depression," Mr. Green declared.

"Our aim is freedom and security for all Americans. We will never be satisfied with less."

Mr. Green asserted that, during the past half-century, labor exerted its economic power in order effectively to raise wages and improve working conditions within the framework of our democratic, free enterprise system which the American Federation of Labor always vigorously defended against encroachment by any and all forms of totalitarianism.

"But the economic progress of labor is now being threatened," he said, "by the enactment of restrictive anti-labor legislation which would outlaw the basic terms of collective bargaining agreements negotiated for more than half a century and provide for the imposition of criminal penalties upon employers and employes for participating in certain concerted activities voluntarily. Such laws have one main purpose—to make strong unions weak—weak unions weaker, and to make it difficult for all unions to function.

Citing the Taft-Hartley law as the most reprehensible of all the Federal and state restrictive labor laws, Mr. Green reiterated the determination of the AFL to wage a militant campaign until its repeal is accomplished and the political defeat of its supporters is assured. He said:

"The AFL will continue to use every power of labor to challenge the constitutionality of this reprehensible legislation in the courts of the land. We are firmly convinced that a majority of the sections of the Taft-Hartley Bill are unconstitutional and will be held invalid by the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, we will seek the repeal of this most highly objectionable anti-labor legislation. Our concentrated efforts will be directed toward the accomplishment of this purpose.

"Furthermore, we will call upon the membership of organized labor and its friends throughout the nation to defeat all candidates for reelection to Congress and State Legislatures who supported for the passage of reprehensible legislation.

"Special detailed efforts will be put forth to prevail upon all workers and their friends to qualify to vote in the election and to see to it that nothing will prevent them from casting their ballots on that day. If we succeed in this effort, no worker or the friend of a worker will have any excuse for failing to vote.

"Our platform for 1948 calls for many other positive measures for human betterment, measures which Congress has consistently defeated or ignored in the past few years.

"First, we demand that action be taken to reduce exorbitant prices and bring the cost of living gradually down to a more reasonable level. Price-gouging monopolies must be crushed and inflation must be halted before the people of this country are robbed of all their hard-earned savings.

"Second, we demand measures to assure maximum employment at wages commensurate with decent American standards of living.

"Third, we call for enactment of a housing program which will encourage and speed up the construction of millions of new and comfortable homes for all Americans.

"Fourth, we must increase the present minimum wage. Under the present law, the standard is only 40 cents an hour for a 40-hour week. How can any wage-earner support a family on $16 a week at present prices? This situation is a disgrace to a nation as rich as ours and cries aloud for correction, but the enemies of labor refuse to listen to reason.

"Fifth, and finally, if we hope for a better future for ourselves and our children, we must strengthen and improve our social security laws so that they will provide adequate protection for all workers and their families from the hazards of life. The new Social Security program, which the American Federation of Labor urged, calls for the inclusion of health and welfare insurance, a forward step which is essential not only to the well-being of individuals but to our country's welfare.

"These things are worth fighting for. Certainly they are worth voting for!"

While urging all trade union members to join in the AFL's battle against the anti-labor forces in the nation, Mr. Green emphasized the need for self-discipline on the part of labor in the exercise of its rights.

"The task and responsibility of organized labor in the months ahead will not be to exercise the spirit of retaliation among the membership, but to keep the spontaneous surge of that spirit within disciplined bounds. For our own good, the welfare of our country and the world, we must continue going at full blast and the wheels of industry moving without serious interruption. We must forever avoid unnecessary and unjustified strikes, but with ballots, in the peaceful, democratic, and American way."

Labor Partnership in Industry Urged By Protestant Religious Spokesman

Tulsa, Okla.—The Rev. Cameron P. Hall of the Episcopal Church, Churches of Christ in America, declared that "labor is too important to the best in American life to be treated as anything other than a partner."

Mr. Hall, Executive Secretary of the Department of Christian Education of the Church and Economic Life, spoke at the annual labor-management conference here sponsored by the Tulsa Council of Labor and the Chamber of Commerce of Tulsa labor organizations. He said:

"Labor has the right to seek the role of partner in industry, and while, it has the responsibility to live up to the obligations of a partner. The Christian conception of man found first in the Christ-inspired spirit of love, is the cement of the present number of countertwelve-hour days of labor and management."

Mr. Hall listed six broad social objectives sought by labor which are in accord with Christian goals and principles. They are: Freedom from want, economic security, provision of adequate medical care for all, wages sufficient for an adequate living, decent living, freedom from racial discrimination, adequate housing, and an understanding of the status and needs of organized labor.

The church spokesman had some pertinent remarks to make about these objective. Speaking of the employment situation, Mr. Hall quoted from the 1947 Labor Sunday message of the Federal Council of Churches:

"We Christians cannot face with silence or inaction the prospect of re-

current business depressions in which millions of workers lose the tools of their trade."

Turning to the question of adequate living of the American workers, Mr. Hall condemned the effects of substandard wages. He said:

"If a price is low because of substandard wages, the saving to us as consumers is at the cost of the workers' right to a decent standard of living.

"The housing crisis facing the nation evoked the most caustic comment from the churchman who deplored conditions prevailing today.

"Whereas we allowed nothing to keep us from building barracks for our soldiers to live in wherever war training took them," he declared, "we are now letting almost anything keep us from providing necessary homes for our families in peacetime."

Note to Editors

In view of the Labor Day holiday and in order to give full and prompt coverage to Labor Day news, the Tuesday edition of the AFL News Service is being issued in advance of the regular publication date.

The supplement edition of Friday, August 29, is being omitted.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the federal, legislative, and judicial fields and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Green Warns Negroes Against Rumors That 'Slave' Law Bans Discrimination

Kansas City, Mo.—AFL President, William Green roundly denounced the anti-labor propagandists for their attempts to convince Negroes that the Taft-Hartley law actually protects them from discrimination.

Speaking at a public labor mass meeting sponsored by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, Mr. Green declared the law is "interpreted solely in protecting non-union, scab labor and strikebreakers from discrimination."

"It does not actually propose to eliminate discrimination based on color, race, religion, or nationality," he said.

Mr. Green declared that legislation to prevent such discrimination is embodied in the Fair Employment Practices Bill which the American Federation of Labor has consistently and unanimously supported. Major opposition to this bill stems from the Southern states and is linked directly to the action of the 20 Democratic Senators who voted to override the President's veto of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Green asserted.

"The AFL chief urged the supporters of the Taft-Hartley law for their denial of labor's charge that it enacts in a slave labor law. He said:

"Regardless of the denials of its sponsors, the law does sanction slave labor, or involuntary servitude. The Norris-LaGuardia Act was passed in March, 1932, for the purpose of terminating government by injunction. It brought to an end a governmental policy which served to compel striking people to work against their will. It matters not how long or short may be the period during which working people are subjected to involuntary service and forced labor it is still involuntary servitude. Involuntary servitude is slavery.

"It was largely because of this slave labor protest on the part of workers and their friends that Congress responded, passed the Norris-LaGuardia Act and outlawed involuntary servitude in the United States.

"Now the Taft-Hartley Bill proposes to restore the injunctive process by making it obligatory on the part of representatives of the National Labor Relations Board to seek the use of the injunction process in certain well-defined cases and under certain circumstances.

"I charge that this means compulsion of servitude, involuntary servitude and slave labor.

"I charge that refusal of the Congress to grant progressive social legislation is ample evidence of the determination "to carry out the mandates of the National Association of Manufacturers to deny labor its most elementary rights." Mr. Green renewed his demand for organizational unity within the labor movement to resist the trend toward reaction.

"Labor is strong if it is united," he said. "It loses much of its strength when it is divided. Any of the moment, therefore, is for labor unity, teamwork, and cooperation."

Inviting the Negroes to join with the AFL in its fight against the Taft-Hartley law and the reactionary political Congress, Mr. Green said:

"Our great movement stands immovable in opposition to race discrimination because of creed, color, or nationality. We do not condonance, approve or support any violation of the principles and purposes on the part of any unit affiliated with our great organization. A union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are required and obligated to conform to and support great principle and policy espoused and accepted by the American Federation of Labor.

"We will fight uncompromisingly for the universal application of this principle and we will call on the department of a fair employment practice to aid us in our fight. We will pull tax wherever it is in effect. This is a fight to the finish and we fight with all the power at our command against discrimination wherever it is practiced."

Less Force, More Skill In Bargaining Process Urged to Promote Production

Ithaca, N. Y.—Collective bargaining is the best formula America has developed for working together in a modern industrial society.

This view was expressed by Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisers, in an address before a labor-management conference sponsored by the New York state school of industrial and labor relations at Cornell University.

Dr. Nourse criticized the "strong-arm stuff" used by some in the collective bargaining process and called for more technical guidance leading to the "skillful adjustment of the related parts of a complex business machine."

He compared the objectives of the Full Employment Act of 1946, the statutory basis for the advisory council, with the theme of the conference which is "Working Together in a Democratic Society."

Cooperation was the keynote of both, he said, adding that "the great objective of this flexible and voluntary working together is to keep opportunities for wage work or self-employment at the maximum or, stated differently, to use our country's resources, human and material, as productively as the facts permit."

Dr. Nourse stressed that maximum employment and maximum buying power, which are two important objectives of the employment act, are of labor and management as well, and emphasized the need for maximum production, then added: ;

"If this it attained over the years labor will have to exercise self-restriction over wide areas. This will be as much a test of intelligent union policy on the one side or the corporation or partnership on the other as the implement of managerial policy on the other.

"We cannot say that we have learned to work together in a democratic industrial society until we have learned to make these difficult adjustments instead of resorting to the collateral use of restrictive—that is, destructive—devices whenever we cannot agree."

House Committee Attempts To Deny Labor Fair Hearing

San Francisco.—Not satisfied with what was perpetrated in Washington at the expense of the labor movement, congressional committees are busily seeking the publicity and in an attempt to uncover additional ammunition to be fired at labor unions when Congress convenes.

Maybe the lure of the Golden West induced the circus-minded House Committee on Un-American Activities, where it bids fair to rival the scandalous conduct of the subcommittee investigating labor disputes in the movie industry. This committee is led by Representative Wint Smith, a Republican from Kansas. Like the Kearns committee in Hollywood, he set out to get something on labor.

To accomplish this purpose, Representative Smith decided to ignore labor entirely, presumably because testimony from labor representatives might not fit in with the kind of evidence he wanted to obtain. Resorting to "star chamber" procedure he refused to invite a single labor representative to appear before the committee's scheduled hearings. At the same time, he carried out a "secret" session in which witnesses were called to testify and to bring their friends to testify in one grand inquisition. To cap this audacious performance, Mr. Smith announced that he and his staff from their headquarters in the California State Chamber of Commerce building, thus holding court in the chamber's auditorium.

After two days of hearings run in this fashion, state and local labor officials lodged a strong protest against the manner in which the hearings were being conducted and complained that they had received no invitations to testify. As a result of this action the committee finally consented to the scheduling of another hearing. That its action was taken grudgingly was made plain by the comment of W. Handley Sheppard, committee clerk, who said:

"We were backed into calling another session. Our group was set up to investigate labor. After all, labor isn't going to file complaints against labor."

Protests registered by the California labor officials should serve notice upon any future Mr. Sheppards that free trade unionists will not submit to the one-sided probes by any congressional subcommittee.

ILGWU to Set Up Political Department, Raise $500,000 to Fight Anti-Labor Law

Forest Park, Pa.—The general executive board of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union authorized the establishment of a political department within the union and a fund of $500,000 to wage a "militant and vigorous" fight on the Hartley law.

The action was taken by the board at its regular meeting here at Unity House, the union's huge summer resorts

David Dubinsky, president of the union, said the function of the new department would be political education and organization among the ILGWU's 400,000 members to "more effective assertion of their rights as citizens against the rising tide of reaction."

He and other members of the executive board made it plain that "effective assertion" of rights by the membership meant electing to Congress only "candidates pledged to progressive legislation and opposed to the enactment of the iniquitous Taft-Hartley law in particular."

The $500,000 fund to supplement the new department's activities will be raised by voluntary contributions from union members. The executive board said that it had "every reason to believe that our membership will respond eagerly and liberally to this appeal and call to action."

According to the board, the immediate task of the political department will be to "mobilize our full voting manpower in every state and community in every local union and subdivision."

This means," the board added, "a nationwide drive for registration of voters and for full participation in forthcoming elections by our members in the primaries and elections."

Other action by the board included the adoption of a protest to petition the United States Government to allow 10,000 displaced Europeans to enter this country and fill the need for experienced garment workers in cloak and suit industry.

Mr. Dubinsky said the industry had been complaining for more than two years about the difficulty of getting trained men, and "we are offering a solution to the problem."

Members of the executive board said that the protest was based on a manpower report of the National Cloak and Suit Industry Recovery Board and they were confident that none of the 10,000 would become public charges.

According to the board, the shortage of skilled workers in the industry and had named as its director Morris Pinanski, former assistant general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board.

Testimonial Dinner For David Dubinsky

Chicago.—More than 1,000 reservations have been received for the testimonial dinner to be tendered David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, on September 14, it was announced here.

This was revealed by Morris Hillis, ILGWU vice-president, and William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, that dinner will be chairman of the committee arranging the testimonial dinner.

"Organized labor is paying tribute to David Dubinsky for his great statesmanship, his wise leadership and his unselfish devotion to the best appeals of the less fortunate peoples throughout the world," Mr. Lee said. Federation of Labor, the Executive Council of the AFL and the Labor Committee are jointly tendering this dinner to David Dubinsky not only as a tribute to a great man, but also to show our complete support for the great humanitarian work being rendered by the Labor Committee at home and abroad."

Money raised at the dinner will help promote and continue the activities of the Jewish Labor Committee in the care of displaced persons abroad and in the fight at home to combat all forms of intolerance and bigotry within the labor movement.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES HIT NEW HIGH, 16% OVER 1946

Washington, D. C.—The food bill for workers' families rose again by 1 percent from mid-June to mid-July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The increase sent the BLS food price index up to a point 16 percent above a year ago, 106 percent over August, 1939, and 191% percent greater than the levels of the 1935-39 average.

The over-all increase resulted from substantial jumps for some commodities and was not a reflection of price increases on all products. Prices of fats and oils, fruits and vegetables and coffee were lower during the period, while consumers paid more for meats, eggs, and dairy products.

Cost Of Living To Increase As Price Gouges Hit Public

Non-Operating Railroad Workers Awarded 15½-Cent Hourly Increase

Chicago.—One million railroad workers, members of the 17 nonoperating unions, received a 15½-cent hourly wage increase awarded by a six-man arbitration board headed by Dr. William Leiserson, former chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

The 17 unions originally demanded an increase of 20 cents, but after negotiations with the railroads resulted in a deadlock, both parties agreed to submit the pay dispute to arbitration.

Labor representatives on the arbitration board were Leo Wyckoff, vice president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, and vice president of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

The arbitration board award to the nonoperating employes was retroactive to September 1. It marked the third wage increase given such employes in a little more than a year. Last year they were awarded wage boosts of 16 cents and 2½ cents hourly.

The nonoperating personnel affected involve such employes as clerks, telegraphers, maintenance and station employes not employed directly in the running of trains.

Employer members of the arbitration panel dissented and declined to sign the award. Spokesmen for the railroads estimated the cost of the wage increase at from $440 million to a year.

Officials of the operating railroad unions announced they would consider adding a wage demand to their previous request for changes in 44 working rules.

Chicago Labor Day Rally Attracts 275,000 Persons

Chicago.—The Labor Day celebration held in Soldier Field proved to be a mass gathering of the entire Chicago labor movement.

Chicago police said that 275,000 people were attracted to the rally with only 75 cases of lost children reported to Soldier Field. Private cars, taxicabs and public transportation units were tied up in traffic jams for hours. Wright Junior College and its radio station WCFL broadcast special messages at regular intervals announcing that the Field was full and asking that others not started for the scene to remain at home or change their plans for the afternoon.

The celebration was the greatest Labor Day rally in the history of this country, Soldier Field President William Green who gave the principal address which was broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company national network.

Speeches were kept to a minimum and for a full afternoon the vast crowd was entertained by some of the nation's most circus performers, stage personalities, and musicians. Midget auto races and runs over the field by Capt. Bill Odom in his globe-circling "Bombshell" plane provided additional thrills and kept the crowd in a holiday mood.

The overwhelming success of the occasion reflected to the credit of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which was responsible for handling all necessary arrangements as part of the Federation's celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

WFTU Branded As Instrument Utilized To Promote Russia's Expansionist Policy

Southport, England. — George J. Richardson, fraternal delegate from the AFL's International Association of Fire Fighters, branded the World Federation of Trade Unions as an instrument used by the Soviet government to further its "expansionist and imperialistic aims."

In a forceful speech before the British Trades Union Congress, Mr. Richardson, in his capacity of fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, charged the present difference between the Soviet government and America are due to the Soviet's violation of every agreement it made to guarantee the independence and the democratic rights of its weak and poorer neighboring states.

Reiterating the AFL's opposition to the WFTU on the grounds that it is controlled by the Soviets and that the activities of state-controlled workers' groups on the fund and from free trade unions on the other, Mr. Richardson said:

"The record of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the contents of its publications, the activities of its general secretary, its consistently hostile attitude toward Great Britain and the United States, its refusal to even the slightest criticism of any Soviet action, its domination and control of the state-controlled unions behind the 'Iron Curtain,' should compel the British Trades Union Congress to disconnect with this organization to reexamine the entire international labor situation and the part being played in it by the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions.

"What we actually have today is not an international federation of trade unions but a propaganda agency dedicated to confusion and discord in the various objective spheres of the world's all of those nations where free and democratic trade unionism is still possible.

"The World Federation of Trade Unions today is not an economic organization of labor organized to protect the rights and interests of workers. It is primarily a political auxiliary of forces reflecting the foreign policies of certain governments—governments that are either totalitarian or dictatorial in nature and, therefore, fully opposed to the existence of genuine free trade unions in their own countries."

Mr. Richardson criticized the Soviet Union's refusal to participate in conferences have arisen with Russia because of her "obstructionist" tactics, her studied refusal to cooperate in international conferences, and her stubborn rejection of every attempt to bring about international control of atomic energy."

KHEEL GIVEN N. Y. CITY LABOR RELATIONS POST

New York City.—Mayor O'Dwyer named Theodore W. Kheel as director of this city's Labor Relations Division to succeed Edward C. Maguire, who resigned to resume the private practice of law.

Mr. Kheel was deputy director of the division prior to his elevation. Before he entered city service he served as executive director of the National War Labor Board and as chairman of the New York Regional War Labor Board for New York and New Jersey. He also served as chairman of the Steel Commission and as a member of the Railway Transit Advisory Commission named by President Truman's Board of Transportation labor dispute.

COAL COMPANIES FINED IN ANTI-TRUST ACTION

Boston.—The United States District Court fined 14 coal distribution organizations a total of $24,000 on charges of conspiracy to fix prices and to monopolize soft coal distribution in violation of the Sherman antitrust law.

The Department of Justice said the companies, which handle 95 percent of the soft coal sold in greater Boston, conspired to eliminate competition among themselves.

AFL Will Continue Greek Relief Work

New York City.—The Labor League for Human Rights declared it will proceed with its $1,500,000 relief package to Greece for distribution.

The statement was made by officials and activities of state-controlled workers' groups on the fund and from free trade unions on the other, Mr. Richardson said:

"The record of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the contents of its publications, the activities of its general secretary, its consistently hostile attitude toward Great Britain and the United States, its refusal to even the slightest criticism of any Soviet action, its domination and control of the state-controlled unions be-

AFL ASBESTOS WORKERS EXTEND PACT, UP WAGES

Waukegan, Ill.—The AFL International Asbestos Workers Union, representing about 1,800 Johns-Manville workers, signed an amendment to their current contract which calls for a 10¢ hourly wage increase, effective immediately.

The amendment also provided for extension of the present one-year contract another year, beyond the August termination date, March 29, 1948, and stipulated that all grievances would be checked off by the company only upon written authorization by individual union members.

SHIRT WORKERS GET PAY RISE

Pottsville, Pa.—The AFL's United Garment Workers Union announced it has obtained wage increases of 4 cents an hour for time workers and from 4 to 7 cents for piece workers for 2,000 employes of the Phillips Jones Corporation here.

AFL Begins Campaign To Expose Situation On Price Front

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor launched a vigorous campaign against the rising cost of living as reports from all over the nation indicated that food prices are soaring to new high levels.

AFL President William Green directed a letter to the local AFL affiliates in all cities and towns in which the Senate-House Committee on the Economic Report is preparing to hold hearings on the prices of consumer goods, urging the local groups to flood the committee with evidence of exorbitant prices now gouging the consumer.

Opinion of experts revealed that the cost of living is due to go up rather than down, as the administration interests boasted prices to maintain or improve their record level.

In produce markets, dealers confidently predict the price of $1 a pound for butter and $1 a dozen for eggs.

In Chicago, prices of corn and oats hit new highs for the second consecutive day, while wheat advanced seven cents a bushel to a new peak for this time of year, at the height of the harvest.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an increase in grain-basket price index for 900 commodities for the eighth straight week. The index now stands at a level 251 percent above a year ago.

The jump in corn price was blamed upon more bad weather reported from the corn belt. On top of this came the warning from John F. Krey, chairman of the American Bankers Assn. that the corn crop may be damaged further by frosts.

If frost comes at the average time this year, from one-third to one-half the corn crop will be in danger, Krey said.

He forecast a drop in meat production, but this, he said, "at a time when there is more need and demand for meat than ever before."

Meanwhile the Agriculture Department said that the farmers this year have averaged about 42 cents an hour for eight hours per price in history and about 7 cents above last year's peak.

Although egg production is higher than a year ago, prices are expected to remain high because of the short, cold start of most, the department said.

Mr. Green, in his letter to all local AFL groups, called the latest threat to the congressional committee that "the facts must be brought to attention in their true light." He said:

"The committee is being apprised of the sensitive of life in the single most important problem confronting American people.

"Government figures, which can only partially reflect the rise in the cost of living, show that the prices of products produced by an average family hit a new high during the month of June, when they were 62 percent higher than in January, 1941. The rise in food prices accounts for bulk of the average worker's wage, rose in price by and 84 percent, respectively. Preliminary figures for July and August are even higher.

"The first session of the 80th Congress closed its eyes to this continually rising cost of living. Its only action was to authorize a present investigation of the high cost of living. This committee has advantage of the opportunity to present the facts in their true light."

ALEXANDER COMPERS DIES; SON OF NOTED AFL LEADER

New York City.—Alexander J. Gompers, 54, eldest surviving son of Samuel Gompers, the labor leader, died in his home at 1746 79th Street, Brooklyn. His age was 69. He retired in June 3 as a referee of the Workmen's Compensation Bureau of the New York State Department of Labor.

Alex Gompers was born in this city and educated here. He first adopted the trade of cigar-making, which was his father's original trade. Later he went into cigar manufacturing.

NLRB Dismisses 50 Election Cases

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board dismissed 50 representation election cases involving supervisory employes because the board has no authority to handle such cases under the Taft-Hartley law.

The law excluded the National Labor Relations Act so as to remove supervisors from the definition of employes, thereby removing from the jurisdiction of the board.

The 50 election cases, which were awaiting action by the NLRB in Washington, involved about 4,400 supervisors in 16 states.

Unions affected by the action of the NLRB include the following AFL affiliates: United Association of the Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada; International Union of Operating Engineers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, and the Insurance Supervisors' Union.

NEGRO GROUP PROTESTS LAW

East Brookfield, Mass.—The National Urban League, an association which conducts social work among Negroes, condemned the Taft-Hartley law.

AFL PAPER MILL WORKERS GET WAGE HIKE, HOLIDAY

Philadelphia.—The AFL's Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers announced the signing of a revised contract affecting 1,100 employes of 19 firms here.

The revised agreement provides for extension of the no-strike and union shop clauses of the original contract and awards a 10 percent wage increase. In addition, the union gained one additional paid holiday, bringing the total of such holidays to seven.

BLS REPORT SHOWS DROP IN JULY WORK STOPPAGES

Washington, D. C.—Fewer work stoppages occurred in July than in any month since February, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The number of workers involved in the 300 stoppages was 550,000, which exceeded the recorded figures for any month this year except April when the nation-wide bituminous strike took place. This was attributed to the brief idleness of 225,000 bituminous coal miners early in the month.

GREEN TO MAKE ADDRESS ON AFL RADIO PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green will speak on the AFL's radio program, AFL Executive Council then in session in Chicago. His remarks will be broadcast at 10:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.